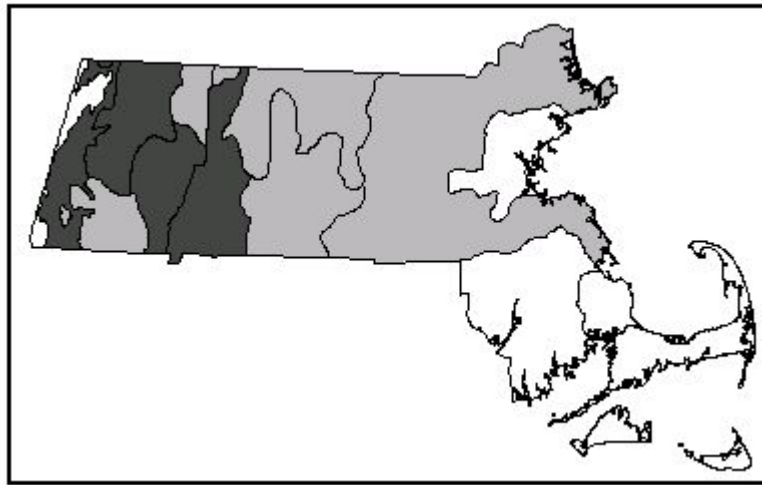


**Community Name:**  
**Community ELCODE:**  
**SRANK:**

**HIGH-TERRACE FLOODPLAIN FOREST**  
CP1A2B4000  
S2



- Concept:** Mesic, deciduous hardwood forests of high alluvial terraces above the zone of annual flooding. This community type also occurs along riverbanks of high-gradient, northern rivers.
- Environmental setting:** High-terrace floodplain forests occur on raised banks adjacent to rivers and streams, on steep banks bordering high-gradient rivers in the western parts of the state, on high alluvial terraces, and on raised areas within major-river and small-river floodplain forests. They are river-influenced and mesic, but they typically are not flooded annually as indicated by the presence of a distinct surface, soil organic layer. Soils are typically silt loams.
- Vegetation Description:** The canopy is a mixture of floodplain taxa, such as red and silver maple (*Acer rubrum* and *A. saccharinum*), and mesic, deciduous hardwoods including sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and basswood (*Tilia americana*). Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) typically forms an open subcanopy and is a good indicator species of this community type. The shrub layer varies from sparse to well-developed with arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) most common mixed with variable amounts of non-native shrubs, including Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*, *R. cathartica*). The herbaceous layer is a mixture of the characteristic floodplain forest ferns--sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)--and rich upland herbs, such as Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), zigzag goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*), white snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*), jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*). Other characteristic herbaceous taxa include honewort (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*), bottlebrush grass (*Hystrix patula*), floodplain avens (*Geum laciniatum*), jumpseed (*Tovara virginianum*), Wiegand's wild rye (*Elymus wiegandii*), trilliums (*Trillium* spp.), trout-lily (*Erythronium americanum*), and enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana* ssp. *canadensis*). Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) can also be abundant.
- Associations:** One association was described in Kearsley (1998, 1999a): Type VI-Alluvial terrace forests (*Acer rubrum*-*Carya ovata*-*Prunus serotina* Association).
- Habitat values for Associated Fauna:** High-terrace floodplain forests can contain low wet depressions that function as vernal pools and provide important amphibian breeding habitat.

**Associated rare plants:**

ACER NIGRUM	BLACK MAPLE	SC
CLAYTONIA VIRGINICA	NARROW-LEAVED SPRING BEAUTY	T
WALDSTEINIA FRAGARIOIDES	BARREN STRAWBERRY	SC

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**Associated rare animals:**

AMBYSTOMA JEFFERSONIANUM	JEFFERSON SALAMANDER	SC
AMBYSTOMA LATERALE	BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER	SC
CLEMMYS GUTTATA	SPOTTED TURTLE	SC
CLEMMYS INSCULPTA	WOOD TURTLE	SC
EMYDOIDEA BLANDINGII	BLANDING'S TURTLE	T
HEMIDACTYLIUM SCUTATUM	FOUR-TOED SALAMANDER	SC

**Examples with  
Public Access:**

Mill River, Northampton.

**Threats:**

Most high terraces have been converted to agriculture. Remaining examples are typically small and disturbed by selective logging and trail clearing. The lack of natural vegetated buffers make these communities highly susceptible to non-native plant invasions. Most known examples have non-native plant species comprising a substantial percentage of overall plant cover. Because these communities fall outside of wetland boundaries, they are not subject to wetland regulations making them targets for selective logging and clearing for agriculture.

**Management needs:**

Removal of non-native species.

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:**

Acer saccharum/Hydrophyllum virginianum-Tovara virginiana Forest [CEGL006114].

**MA [old name]:**

SNE Riverside/streamside mesic, deciduous forest [CT2F1A0000].

**ME:**

Part of Hardwood floodplain forest community.

**VT:**

Sugar maple-basswood-ostrich fern riverine floodplain forest.

**NH:**

Sugar Maple-Silver Maple-White Ash Floodplain Forest.

**NY:**

Part of Floodplain forest.

**CT:**

Acer saccharum-Fraxinus americana/Carex sprengei community.

**RI:**

Not described.

**Golet & Larson, 1974:**

**Other:**

**Author:**

J. Kearsley

**Date:**

7/21/99